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June 18, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Applications of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, SpectrumCo LLC, and Cox TMI Wireless, LLC, WT Docket No. 12-4
Notice of *Ex Parte* Meeting

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Thursday June 14, 2012, Derek Turner, Research Director of Free Press and Joel Kelsey, Policy Advisor of Free Press met via telephone with Zac Katz, Chief of Staff, and Charles Mathias, Special Counsel to Chairman Genachowski.

During the meeting, we summarized and presented the arguments made in a June 4, 2012 highly confidential written ex parte filed by Free Press in this proceeding. We reiterated that these transactions as proposed fail to meet the public interest standard of the Communications Act. As we noted in the June 4th ex parte, the Applicants have failed to make the case that the transfer of these scarce public airwaves to Verizon has any measurable benefits that could outweigh the numerous harms that will be created by further increasing the spectrum gap between Verizon and other carriers. We reviewed the record evidence that demonstrates conclusively that Verizon is badly overstating its need for this spectrum, particularly in the Eastern 2/3 of the U.S. where it already holds AWS licenses. We discussed the glaring problems with Verizon's current opposition to modifying the 2021 buildout deadline on these AWS licenses in light of its stated immediate need for this spectrum, and discussed how Verizon's internal communications informed this aspect of the transaction review. We also noted how the Commission had expressed concerns about the so-called "spectrum gap" in the recent CMRS Reports, AT&T-T-Mobile Staff Report and AT&T-Qualcomm Order. We discussed the inherent problems in the existing spectrum screen and noted how the screen itself is merely a tool, not a rule nor a safe harbor for spectrum consolidation. We pointed out that the public interest standard in the Act is the ultimate hurdle that the Applicants must overcome, not the flawed spectrum screen. We also observed that the Verizon's planned use of the carrier aggregation features of LTE-Advanced will result in the indistinguishable comingling of Verizon's upper 700 MHz Cblock spectrum with AWS spectrum, and noted that such comingling does not result in the voiding of the "no locking/no blocking" C-block license requirements.

We emphasized that though there is no combination of conditions that would make these transactions a net positive for the public interest, there are several conditions that would work to lessen the overall public interest harms. First, we argued that Verizon should be ordered to divest AWS spectrum where post-transaction it would hold more than 20 MHz of paired AWS spectrum. These markets lie in the Eastern 2/3 of the country, areas where Verizon is already capable of launching a 20 x 20 MHz LTE-Advanced network using its existing AWS and upper 700 MHz C-block licenses. Again, we emphasized that the Commission's analysis would be better informed by focusing on Verizon's internal documents that speak to its need for this spectrum, not Verizon's ever-changing and self-serving pleadings made to the Commission upon the consummation of this proceeding. Second, we urged the Commission to avoid any further warehousing of spectrum by modifying the buildout requirement of the licenses at issue in this proceeding. We argued that the current 2021 substantial service deadline should be substantially shortened, and suggested that a "use it or share it" license condition would best serve the public interest.

Sincerely,

/s/

S. Derek Turner Research Director Free Press dturner@freepress.net

CC via email:

Zac Katz Charles Mathias